

## **FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

April 26, 2016

### MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order.
- II. The following members were present: Angela Spencer, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Lisa Clark, Georgia McCauley, Francisco Alves, Kavonte Duckett, Mari Lee, Adam Book.
- III. The following persons who submitted applications for appointment to the Human Relations Commission were present: Lee Wisner, Roger Sobkowiak, Wayne Horrell and Tracy Bowie. The applicants introduced themselves and made brief remarks about their interest in being appointed to the HRC.
- IV. The March HRC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction, a typo in item V. The word “we” is stricken, and the sentence begins, “Chair Angela Spencer said that the HRC has met....” Kavonte moved and Mari Lee seconded.
- V. James Van Kuilenburg and his mother, Nicola Van Kuilenburg, were welcomed. They spoke about their recent experience on April 21 when they were asked to leave a rally at the Weinberg Theater in Frederick where Sen. Ted Cruz was speaking. James is a 16 year old transgender male who recently received a student excellence award at the HRC’s awards dinner. James is a student at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School, and he described the events that took place at the rally and afterwards. Many HRC members thanked James and his mother for standing up for human rights and handling this controversy so well.
- VI. Treasurer Mari Lee reported there was \$8,043.15 on hand; however, a large portion of this will go to pay for the cost of the awards dinner.
- VII. The Community Relations Committee reported that the awards dinner was a success, and many favorable comments have been received about the event this year.
- VIII. The Community Relations Committee also reported that the HRC is about out of give-away items, and is looking at catalogs to determine which items should be purchased before the end of June when the fiscal year ends.
- IX. The Government Relations Committee reported that the Human Trafficking Task Force meeting has been rescheduled for May 18.
- X. The Government Relations Committee also reported that efforts are underway to contact elected officials at some of municipalities in the County. This is an outreach effort aimed at letting them know what the HRC does, and might be able to do to assist them with any human relations issues that may

arise. Mayor Tome of Brunswick is interested in getting together with some HRC representatives to have such a discussion.

XI. It was mentioned that bullying continues to be a problem at some County high schools. There have been some suicides.

XII. The Internal Relations Committee reported that the youth leadership program is now in operation. It is being conducted through the Torch Club at the Boys & Girls Club. Next year it is hoped that more HRC members can become involved. It's currently meeting every week.

XIII. The Internal Relations Committee also reported that work is underway to promote the Necktie Clubs at local high schools. The decision has been made to meet with Necktie Club representatives at all local high schools, to begin preparations for the new school year. Efforts are being made to get these very worthwhile groups back on track.

XIV. A list of the 2016 community events that are now scheduled was handed out, and all members were reminded that participation by the HRC is expected at these events. Members were requested to look at the list and then contact HRD to sign up to be the leader or point person for at least one event. The responsibilities of that position will include picking up tables, chairs, give-away items and informational brochures, and setting up and taking down the HRC table at the event.

XV. Angela Spencer said that she is now serving on the board of the local HIV-AIDS organization, which meets one time per month. She will need to be replaced starting in July when her term on the HRC ends.

XVI. Discussion was held about inviting all of the young people who received student excellence awards to attend an upcoming HRC meeting. May and June were mentioned. The Executive Committee will make a decision on this.

XVII. HRD Director Miles Ward said that he had been directed by the Executive Committee to write a letter to the Frederick Police Department expressing that the HRC would be glad to receive a much briefer report in future years about the department's efforts to recruit and hire minority candidates. He also mentioned that several people have recently contacted HRD to discuss discrimination complaints arising from their employment.

XVIII. Announcements and Upcoming Events:

- Police Memorial Day is April 30. A ceremony will be held outside City Hall, and HRC Chair Angela Spencer will sing. All HRC members were encouraged to attend.
- County Executive Jan Gardner will issue a proclamation recognizing and honoring Asian-Pan American Heritage Month on May 3 at Winchester Hall. All HRC members were encouraged to attend.

- HRC Chair Angela Spencer said that she has the photos from the recent awards dinner, and will provide them to HRD and to others so they can be placed on Facebook and used in other places to promote the activities of the HRC.

XIX. The meeting was adjourned.